

Point Three

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The monthly magazine of TOC H



Point Three

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Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House – the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

Editorial

PERFECTLY GLORIOUS?

On 11 December Toc H will be 70 years of age. The day after is exactly 100 years since the birth in Maryborough, Queensland, of Philip Byard Clayton. We shall see more birthdays in Toc H, but only one centenary of Tubby's birth, so it seems right to think primarily of him at this time.

What can one say of Tubby? There are many images of this mercurial man – the brilliant preacher, the knowledgeable antiquarian, the scholar, the leader, the stubborn and awkward old man, the man of prayer, the man of humour, the man who was usually late, the man who could commend immense love and loyalty, and the man who could drive his friends to fury! However much others were essential to the early building of Toc H, there is no doubt that his energy and vision was the mainspring, and it is most unlikely that anything like Toc H would exist today had it not been for him. We owe an immense debt. It is clear from much that has been written that what happened in Talbot House, Poperinge, from 1915 to 1918, only happened because of the quality and character of that man. One of the lesser known facts is that when, through illness, Tubby was away from the house for several months, the whole atmosphere was diminished, and there was talk of closure. However good the theory of Toc H, and however suitable the structures, it remains true that it only actually works when the theory and the structures are set alight by individual energy, enthusiasm and commitment.

But what was the particular hallmark of this man? Elsewhere in this issue there are other tributes from two men who knew him long before I was born. I tread carefully in even contemplating a comment on him, as someone who only knew Tubby in his failing years, and then not even very well. But what I did experience, which echoed what people said about him from the earliest days, was his capacity to see in the most unlikely people great worth and great loveliness. He would come into the office on Tower Hill and start talking about some 'perfectly glorious' person he had met, and after a bit one would realise he was in fact talking about someone one knew already, and who had not really seemed very impressive! At times it was tempting to dismiss this as the naivety of an eccentric old man, but there is no doubt that at other times he helped people to see and rejoice in the best of others.

In his book 'Tubby Clayton', Canon Melville Harcourt writes '*Tubby's radiant humour and simplicity were such that men always felt at their best in his company and, for the moment, became what he imagined them to be "perfectly splendid fellows, such jolly chaps"*'. Whether he genuinely saw these joyous qualities in others, or whether his Faith was such that he knew they were there somewhere, did not matter. The result was that his expectations bred superb results, and people found, and gave, their best. Maybe he knew, deep down, the truths that modern psychologists and educationalists have since demonstrated, that human beings respond to exceptions! He expected the best, and he usually got it.

Maybe that is a message for us all. There is no point idolizing Tubby – he had his fair share of weaknesses and flaws – and no point hankering for some sort of reincarnation. The best way we can celebrate the centenary of his birth is to do what we can to become the sort of people who expect the best of others. That would be a real contribution. We may be dismissed as naive – we may be 'conned' and taken advantage of – but maybe that is the risk we have to run if we are true to what we stand for. After all, what could be more naive than to tell people to Love their enemies and turn the other cheek?

In a frightened and suspicious society, in which the only news we are offered is bad news and people are led to look for the worst motives, and the worst interpretations, there is urgent need for more people to subvert that by looking for the best, by believing in the best, and by so doing bringing forth the best. What more Christian role could there be, and what better form of recommitment on the twin anniversaries this December?

JEM

Cover Picture

The Revd P B 'Tubby' Clayton
CH MC DD, Founder Padre of Toc H,
1885-1972.

Personality Point

The following new members were registered during October:

Hubert G Deakin, John W Hart, George W Regent (Ashby-de-la-Zouch M), Michael P Jackson (Basingstoke Hornets (J) Group), Miss Julie E Reeves (Birmingham Brumblebees (J) Group), Mrs Doreen C Boustred (Burraton W), John C Ames, Miss Sylvia Platt, Miss Diane M Woodward (South Yorkshire District), Graham Warden, Charles E Knowles (Wellington M), Revd William Elliott (Wyre Forest J)

Welcome to 12 new members

Congratulations!

to Leslie and Suzanne Grocott who recently celebrated their Ruby Wedding anniversary. Chance had brought them together. During the Second World War he served in the Royal Engineers and the regiment moved into Brussels as the

Germans moved out, and it was here that he was demobbed. Thus he was able to fulfil a promise made to the wife of a Belgian journalist working in London by delivering a letter to her mother who lived in Brussels assuring her that they had survived the air raids. The mother was not at home but the lady next door undertook to give her the letter. It was from this incident that romance developed and they were eventually married in the Methodist Church in Brussels. Les has been a member of Toc H since 1973 when he joined the Bognor Branch. He is one of the most active of members. He is responsible for handling the large quantity of stamps that come in from works as well as privately and arranging their sale. He also undertakes regular visits to Old Folks Homes and any Branch member who may be laid up — all this although he is severely physically handicapped. At the age of 74 he intends to continue his Church and Toc H work from his invalid motor.

Welcome

to **Jane Richardson**, who joined the staff on 1 October to develop Friendship Circles in Bucks — a two year appointment funded by special Health and Local Authority Funds.

to **Jane Douch**, who has joined the staff and is working with husband Philip on the setting up of the new work at Kingsteignton described in this issue.

to **Rev Alan Johnson**, who is now a Staff Padre in the South East Region, working from his new home near Sevenoaks, Kent.

to **Tony Williams**, who started work on 1 October as Assistant Warden at Toc H, Paderborn in BAOR.

to Three new Long Term Volunteers — **Carolyn Collins** in Wellingborough, **Martin Rudd** at Port Penrhyn, and **Neville Williamson** in Leicester.

Photo: Army Information



Fred Mason, Warden of the Toc H Club at Verden, W Germany has been transferred to the club at Munster. A formal farewell party took place in September when many friends gathered to wish him well.



Doris Goodwin, a founder member of Allestree (W) Branch, cuts the cake at the 25th birthday party. The Branch has an impressive history of work ranging from baby-sitting to house clearance, and much work with the elderly.

Alison House Holiday Weeks 1986

March 27 - April 1
July 5 - 12
July 26 - August 2
August 2 - 9
August 9 - 16

Easter House Party
John Cutt (Host)
Norman Brew/Brian Dodgson (Hosts)
Painting & Leisure — Harry Muscutt (Tutor)
Marjorie Berry (Hostess)

The provisional charges which include VAT are:

Easter House Party — £55 per person
All other holidays — £67 per person

If you would like to come please send a stamped and addressed envelope to The Warden, Alison House, Intake Lane, Cromford, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3RH and a booking form will be sent to you.

The Lasting Values

I first met Tubby Clayton when I was at theological college wondering what to do with my life. I'd had a call from God to be ordained but had always been apprehensive, fearing that most of my ministry would be giving cups of tea to old ladies. That terrified me! And then there came to my college a little priest – rubicund, smiling, humorous – who told me about his work with men and how he had founded a society called Toc H, and how he was working in a parish in the City of London, mainly among men. I was enormously intrigued and felt that if only he would be prepared to try me out that was the sort of parish I would like to start in. So I duly went, very untrained and totally unworthy, to be Assistant Curate at All Hallows-by-the-Tower with this very remarkable priest, Rev P B 'Tubby' Clayton. Looking back over the years, I realise that I owe almost all that has been of any value in my ministry to the teaching and example of my one and only vicar, Tubby Clayton, and so I am pleased and happy to give this tribute. To begin with I want to say a word about him as a man.

The man

First, I have never known anyone work so hard – he not only worked 10-12 hours a day but sometimes worked all night. He had two secretaries, a day secretary and a night secretary, and quite often wouldn't appear to have any sleep whatever for three days at a time and while he was working he really worked. He talked, met people, visited them. It was a non-stop life and he expected his curates to work equally hard.

The next thing I recall was his utter humility. Never in all my life have I known a more humble man. He had high intelligence. He obtained a first class degree at Oxford and could have risen to great heights in the world of scholarship, but he was utterly humble, with no pretence. And in that humility he cared for everybody equally, regardless of their status or their wealth. Dukes and dustmen, peeresses and parlour maids. He was a man of deep compassion and for anyone in trouble he gave everything he had. While I was working for him my beloved young sister died at 26; I felt the bottom of the world had fallen out and I went to see him. He met me with his arms outstretched and took me along to the altar rails to pray with me. Never in all my life have I felt such a wave of compassion and caring. I walked out of the church, able and ready to face life once again.

He had a marvellous sense of humour, and his laugh was contagious. His jokes were constant, and he seldom started an address without a humorous story. Before three minutes were out he would have us convulsed with laughter. All through his life he was a humorous, amusing person.

He had a great capacity for friendship. He never seemed to forget anybody, and when we travelled, as he and I often did, all over the country, he would always remember 'old so-and-so' and go and visit him, or 'young so-and-so, I wonder if he's still here', and off he would go to see. And even if he hadn't met someone for ten or 15 years he never forgot. This friendship was deep and undying. He would constantly write to them and ask how they were. He always seemed to be in touch with everybody he had known in the course of his life.

He was a scholar, with an intense love of the Bible. His two great passions were the Bible and Dickens. He seemed to know Dickens by heart – every book from start to finish. As a speaker he was listened to by multitudes. You couldn't begin to call him a preacher in the real old fashioned sense of the word, but a speaker? Yes, because he met people where they were. And indeed that was his art of dealing with them. He dealt with them where they were, as they were, and drew them out.

The Priest

He was a wonderful priest because he got alongside people. He didn't wait until they were holy, or good. He just accepted them as they were and discovered what they were interested in and built on that. He didn't try and give them a sense of sin, he didn't make them feel guilty. On the contrary, they might be totally pagan, but he elicited from them their interest, and then got them to do something with their talents, for the Church. Maybe they were interested in carpentry – he'd say *'Dear old boy – the very man I'm looking for – I want something made for the Church. Do you think you could possibly do it?'* And before the chap was aware of it, he'd promised to make a crucifix or something, and this happened day after day. Indeed, my job was to remember all the people who had promised to do things! He listened and listened to what they had to say. He never spoke from above, telling them something 'down there', but he spoke from a level, and drew them out. He was a wonderful parish priest and probably he produced more men for the ministry than any

other single priest of his generation. There must be hundreds of men who owe their call to the ministry to the work and words of Tubby Clayton.

As a priest he was a tremendous intercessor. He had legions of people he prayed for. He would go into his study and there he would sit or kneel remembering them by name, one by one, and holding them up to Our Lord for his blessing.

His letters were memorable. I wish I had kept many of them, I could have framed them. So caring, so helpful and so very real because, for Tubby, everybody was of value to God. However much they'd sinned, however estranged from God they were at the moment he made them feel they were of value to the Lord and his own priesthood was utterly 'Jesus centred'.

The friend

Now his friendship. Well he was for me the greatest friend I have ever had. He kept alongside me until he died constantly writing to me and encouraging me and inspiring me and making me feel I wanted to do the things that he did – in other words to go out in constant continuing service of other people. I cannot begin to say that I am even a beginner in that respect compared to him but I learnt what it meant to go out in service, to roll up one's sleeves and kneel before people and help them.

The trainer

As a trainer of curates I think he was inimitable. He had four curates, of whom I was one, and he taught me many things of great value which have lasted me throughout my ministry. He always reminded me that the apostolic way was to send people out two-by-two so he would never visit them alone. He always had one of his curates with him. I was very tall, he was very short so we became known as the long and the short of it. And the 'long and the short of it' were seen going round that city parish into offices, into huge industrial concerns and into small commercial offices. He was a visitor day in and day out. He hardly stopped and people looking back now 50 years can still recall Tubby Clayton coming to visit years and years ago and altering their whole way of life.

Another thing one learned from him was to prepare services in detail. To set them up carefully and prayerfully. His services

Two Centenary Tributes to Tubby Clayton

were unusual. His way of conducting the eucharist was quite unique – he would pause at times and remember somebody by name, *'old Bill – let us be silent a moment – Bill, when I last saw him, he was leading his regiment over the top and then he went and became . . .'* and so he went on for about three minutes. So you saw Bill outlined for you. And so the Service went on. Nobody else could or should imitate it. I said earlier he wasn't a preacher, but he went up to the pulpit with an armful of books. He would quote from one book and another, then he would get drawn into a subject and then you felt you didn't want him to end. It was so interesting.

His faults? Of course he had them like us all. He had many, he was bad tempered when he was tired. He exaggerated violently and you had to learn to divide what he said about somebody by half, but nevertheless although it amounted at times almost to untruth, it made everything interesting, it made what he was saying come alive! He was sometimes careless of people who worked for him, regardless of the long hours he was keeping them, and it was often early morning before he had finished dictating. That was just a little bad side of his character and there were others, but always, and this is a very important point, he was always deeply penitent and constantly aware of his failings.

In his spiritual life he was sometimes what one might call untidy or irregular but always a devoted sacramentalist and the Eucharist was central to his life. He went to Holy Communion very frequently and never missed on Sundays. He was intensely loyal to the Church of England, and to Episcopal Authority. He didn't always agree with Bishops, in fact he disagreed violently with them on occasions, but he always accepted their authority to the very end of his life.

I can only end where I began by saying that as I look back on a ministry of over 50 years I know that, more than any other man, he taught me what the ministry is all about. He taught me much, if not most, of what has been of any value in my ministry and always I shall owe a deep debt of gratitude to this loveable, humorous, hardworking, devoted, diligent parish priest who founded Toc H. Though dead, he still lives in the lives of vast numbers of people who owe their whole spiritual life to this remarkable, unusual and devoted parish priest.

CB

To mark the centenary of Tubby's birth, on 12 December 1885, we have invited two close friends to share their memories of Tubby. The Rt Rev Cuthbert Bardsley, former Bishop of Coventry, shared his tribute as part of an interview with the Editor recently. A fuller version of that interview will be available from Toc H Headquarters at a later date. The other contributor, Geoff Martin, was a member of the Toc H Staff for many years, and was loved and known worldwide as Overseas Secretary.



The cord that drew my family firmly into Tubby's orbit has three main strands. The first was my elder brother who spent most of his army service as a stretcher bearer in the Ypres Salient and therefore regarded Talbot House as indeed his 'home from home'. Whenever possible he acted as Server to Tubby in the Upper Room so that, by the time he was killed in his teens, priest and server knew each other well.

The second strand was woven by his letters home so that my parents came to understand fully just what The Old House meant to all concerned. So when the war ended, as even that war had to sometime, and Tubby sought to open the first Mark at 23 Queen's Gate Gardens my mother sent him a two-and-sixpenny postal order as a symbol of her gratitude. She wasn't ashamed of her half-a-crown because we were pretty hard up and she couldn't afford any more. She also explained that she had omitted to give our address because she didn't want him to feel any necessity to acknowledge such a mite of a gift. So far so good.

Now comes the significant bit, the bit that first brought me inside Tubby's magnetic field as it were, on St David's platform in Exeter. He simply wrote round to various ex-service friends who had known my brother and from one got the name of a Somerset village where we had previously lived. Then he wrote to

the village postmaster who couldn't see very well but who tried and eventually found a piece of paper with our Exeter address scrawled on it. So – on his way to Plymouth one Saturday to start Toc H there he got off the train at Exeter and took the tram up to where we lived in order to thank my mother personally for her gift. I have tried to work out in cash how much her donation would have cost him and I make it something between four and sixpence and five shillings in postage and tram fares. He asked if there were any other young editions of Fred and would I meet him at St David's the following Saturday on his way back from Plymouth?

I went, and was overwhelmed and have remained enslaved ever since throughout all the human ups and downs of our relationship. So much for history.

But in his request for an article John Mitchell mentions Tubby's stature and his significance in this century. To me his essential stature is revealed in this story. How can his significance be assessed except through the lives of the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of such as myself, and there must be many of us still living? How will Tubby's influence be faring by the end of this century? Will it become so diluted by time and the passing of men as to be unrecognisable? For myself I cannot be too grateful for all that he and Toc H have done for me. First, through him I met my wife, and we have two sons both of whom are positioned to influence others.

Through him four of my friends met, married and have their families.

One thing is surely certain, the values set by great characters cannot be completely extinguished by lesser values and the passing of time. Which is why I believe that such reactions as Tubby's to the gift of half-a-crown will continue to seep through countless conditions of men long after their source has passed into our domestic history.

GM

Round and about



A new project in the Borders

The Borders District decided in May to run a weekend project for boys between 14 and 16 years of age. They chose Towford, an Outdoor Educational Centre, situated in the wilds, South East of Jedburgh, as the venue.

The purpose of the project was to get 12 boys, four from Jedburgh, four from Selkirk and two each Duns and Eyemouth, and have an outdoor weekend, learning to make friends and live together in harmony.

The project duly took place between 20-22 September and in the event Selkirk supplied six boys, Jedburgh four and Duns two.

The weekend started on Friday night, when they all met at Jedburgh at 6.30pm and drove in convoy to Towford. The weather was fair as they started off but by 8.30 the rain started and it rained throughout the whole weekend, which meant that the outside programme had to be practically cancelled. As part of the programme they had arranged for the Countryside Ranger to take them over the hills surrounding the Centre and they set off on the Saturday morning on this, but after only 45 minutes had to abandon the idea and return, soaked to the skin. The Countryside Ranger provided a nature film after tea had been provided.

Saturday afternoon was devoted to indoor games and the evening was occupied by the watching of some very funny films of Harold Lloyd and Charlie Chaplin.

On Sunday morning Padre Edward Mackay from Selkirk came down and took a short service based on the theme of the project, followed by a short talk by Pat Brownlee explaining the birth of Toc H and its aims and pursuits and finally a short discussion about future projects in the Borders.

The project was an unqualified success and plans for a re-union were tentatively made for a day's outing early in 1986.

News from Watford

Watford Toc H helped to organise and man a Garden Party in aid of the local Abbeyfield Society Home, which raised £82. They served cream teas and manned side shows and stalls in the garden of a member — on one of the few sunny Saturdays this summer. Also Mr and Mrs Denham, friends of the Branch raised £230 towards the Toc H project at Cell Barnes Psychiatric Hospital.

From Levenmouth to Matlock

Robert Baird writes to tell us of a most successful holiday at Alison House for members of Levenmouth and other Scottish Branches. They had good weather, and with some ego and imagination, claimed 'the sun shone on the righteous', and appreciated the warm welcome from Alan and Irene Robson, and the trips planned by Frank and Wyn Howlett.

Of particular interest were the visits to the 'well dressings' in the area, Chatsworth House and Hardwick Hall.

A memorable day was spent at Eyam, famous for its suffering from the plague in the 17th century. The day was memorable also because one couple lost a wallet, and had it returned almost immediately by a young lad from Nottingham, whose honesty gladdened the hearts and contrasted well with the usual view of young muggers.



The Scots invade Dovedale.

A birthday without presents

That was the choice of Grace Heard, on her 80th birthday. Instead, she told her family that she would prefer it if they helped her to organise a garden party at her home to raise money for leukaemia research.

The family (including daughter Janet Rauch CEC) responded enthusiastically, as did local members, who provided the goods for a handicraft stall.

'We were most fortunate with the weather' says Grace 'and with a final total of £215, it was my most wonderful birthday present.'



Photo: Sleaford Standard

Summer in Suffolk

Despite depleted numbers due to holidays, Clacton on Sea Afternoon Branch — being on the coast — have had a busy summer.

In early June they provided a three course lunch and afternoon tea for 30 pensioners sent by Age Concern in Westminster. Later in June they prepared afternoon tea for 96 people brought by Ipswich Toc H for a day by the sea.

In July and in conjunction with Clacton Evening Branch, they entertained residents of Hamilton Lodge, Gt Bromley — a home for men with a mental handicap — for lunch and tea.

In September they provided afternoon tea for 40 children and helpers. These children aged 9-13 had been specially selected by London Boroughs as being 'children at risk' and were enjoying the holiday of a lifetime camping at Hengrave Hall in Suffolk. The trip to Clacton was the highlight of their holiday.

The annual outing of Stowmarket Ladies Branch this year took 50 disabled, housebound and widows for a drive around the villages of Suffolk. Members enjoyed listening to the comments from the guests. Three over 90 years of age were heard to say *'That Hall is where we used to work. They were the servants quarters. Isn't it grand to be here again?'* Tea was provided by Sudbury Branch.

Photo: Frank Howlett

Goodbyes and Good News in Poperinge

In a letter to David Brougham, of Huddersfield, Bart Pattyn tells the tale of 'Tubby's Young Poperinge Group'. Bart is currently the Group Chairman.

Let me start with giving you a bit of background information on how our group got set up. Tubby's Young Poperinge Group held its first meeting on Friday, 7 October 1977. There were nine young people attending it. We grew a little and now we have about 18 loyal members. All of us are aged between 12 and 26. However there is an age limit to attend the meetings: everyone over 16 can come to the meetings, the others (two for the moment) are only invited to the activities we do. Maybe you'll find this is a bit strange, but we found we had to do this because these younger people are (how should I say this), getting a bit in the way on the meetings! We regard them, however, as loyal and dear friends! Another unwritten rule is that nobody gets initiated in Toc H, unless they have learned and in a way proved what it means to be a member of the family during one year. After their first year the decision to be initiated is up to them alone.

What do we do, you are asking? The most important thing to us is to be really good

Life-saving in Worthing

At the Southdown District meeting in Worthing, representatives from six Branches saw a demonstration given by two members of the Worthing Ambulance Service of a 'life pack heart machine' which is now in use in Worthing and how this marvellous machine has already saved six lives since the first one was purchased.

They started in 1984 with one machine which was bought by a local businessman, after which a committee was formed to raise money for more machines which cost £5,000 each. At present Worthing has ten machines.

After the demonstration the chairman of Southdown District, Joan Flemon, presented a cheque for £1,000 for the Ambulance Service towards a new machine. The Ambulance Service representatives thanked Toc H for this magnificent gift.

Goodbye to Charles and Ivy Swan Terry Gray

Charles and Ivy Swan have just completed their term of office as honorary warden/housekeepers at The Old House, and I feel that tribute should be paid to them for the work that they have done for Toc H in Poperinge.

During the past 15 years I have made many visits to Poperinge and like others in Toc H have come to love the town and

friends within our group and of course the Toc H family. Only then can we help the community. Our most important social work consists in paying Christmas visits to the elderly in Poperinge and one old people's home in Steenvoorde, just across the French border. We give them all a little present, which we try to make ourselves. For example, a paper flower, some self baked cookies or just a Christmas card. Sometimes we buy the present. This is when we have enough money or when we haven't got the time to make something. The problem of raising money is international I think. We try to solve it as follows: in the Old House there are three organisations, our group, the Friends of The Old House and the Swan's Group. When one of these groups wants to arrange a fund raising the two other groups help them and the profits are divided equally between the three. For example, every year the house is open for small activities. This is during the sales days in the street. We normally hold a 'bring and buy sale', sell refreshments and have a tombola. Furthermore, every year (or twice a year) we have an open barbeque party in the garden of the Old House. These are some of the things we do.

Our group also tries to meet as many English parties (who are staying in Talbot House) as possible. To give you an idea, last week there was a party of 12 young Londoners from Bangladesh staying in Talbot House. The first day of their visit we had an evening-tea-welcome-party. The following evening some of us went back and talked, played table tennis or had tea with them. From these contacts grew the idea to go for a walk on Friday evening, almost the whole group was there. So we decided to leave with them for an entire day. Because most of us are working during the day, we arranged to go out on a Sunday. In the morning we went to visit a war monument in Diksmuide. We had our sandwiches in a cafe in Nieuwpoort and set off for Ostend. In the afternoon we all had a marvellous time 'disco-scating'. At 6 o'clock we had to be back because we hired the swimming pool for an hour. Afterwards they cooked rice with curry for us. It was a fandabidosy day! We even promised them to go and visit them in London next year.

it's people. The warmth and friendship shown to English visitors by people in Poperinge has been described in Point Three many times, but it is only in the time of the Swans at Talbot House that many of the local people had great awareness of Toc H.

In Poperinge it is usually assumed that if you are English then you must be Toc H and staying at Talbot House. But for a long time exactly what Talbot House was (apart from being a haven for English visitors), was something of a mystery to many Poperinge residents, and certainly to find one who was a member of Toc H was unusual. But things are different now, and for this we have to thank the Swans.

Today in Poperinge there is a thriving Toc H Youth Group at the House plus a Toc H Branch with a membership of over 90. Today if you wear your Toc H badge and enter many of the shops or cafes in Poperinge you will be fairly sure of recognition either by a Toc H member, or someone who knows someone who is. A decade ago this would have been almost unheard of.

Today Talbot House is alive with Belgian voices, activity and laughter. There have been Toc H fund raising and publicity functions in local schools and churches — all well publicised and attended, plus other events (all planned at meetings held at Talbot House) some involving Belgian and British Toc H members working together — and in addition there are the regular local Toc H jobs. This all means that many of the people of Poperinge are more aware of the existence and some of the meaning of Toc H than ever before.

Of course Charles and Ivy Swan have not done it all, that is not possible combined with the duties of running the House, and there have been others before them. But they have generated much of the motivation and enthusiasm, and in particular, they have gone out and met the people. They have talked, badgered, persuaded and 'sold' Toc H and succeeded in opening the doors of Talbot House to many. On my last visit Charlie was 'popping out' on a Wednesday afternoon to do his weekly half-hour spot as a DJ on the local radio station. I listened in and Toc H and Talbot House were well mentioned.

Today the Toc H visitor to Talbot House can give thanks for and remember the lives of Tubby Clayton and his colleagues at The Old House in those early days — but they can also look to today and see how 'the good thing thus begun' has been established in Poperinge, the place where it all began 70 years ago. And it is in no small measure due to the efforts of Charles and Ivy Swan in their time at Talbot House.

Happy Birthday Australia

Toc H Australia - a Pen Portrait

Jean Hayes

Australia is a land of distances, with the dry desert inland very sparsely populated. There is a sample of every climatic condition (except, perhaps, the extreme Antarctic) varying, of course, from state to state, and a wide selection of agricultural and commercial industries. With the steady stream of migrants the cultural aspect is also changing rapidly, in many cases too rapidly for the established modes. Added to this is the growing awareness of the aboriginal problem, and the general restlessness of unemployed and dissatisfied youth. These factors are not peculiar to Australia, of course, but we, like others, must try to find a solution within our own environment.

In all this Toc H must have a part, and it is the purpose of the present administration to try to find out what that part is. We must be prepared to accept change and face up to new methods and new approaches, and this is very hard when we by instinct revert to our tried and true ways of tackling problems, instead of trying to get attuned to the very different viewpoint of modern thinking.

Experiments have been tried, especially in South Australia, where a certain measure of success was achieved in interesting young people in the 'Link Scheme' but while people were prepared to work together for a specific task, they were not interested in making themselves available for service on a regular basis. This is apparent in all service clubs, most of them with more charisma than Toc H, but Toc H is the only organisation that stresses the value of personal service (as against fund raising) and this must be attributed to its Christian background.

Our total membership is of 298 members, 150 general members, 27 probationers and 67 builders in 31 Branches and Groups.

Jobs vary with the States, but mainly concentrate on installation of Emergency Alarms for the elderly and housebound and work with children, youth (including holiday camps), handicapped people and old folk. A quick look at the various Areas follows:

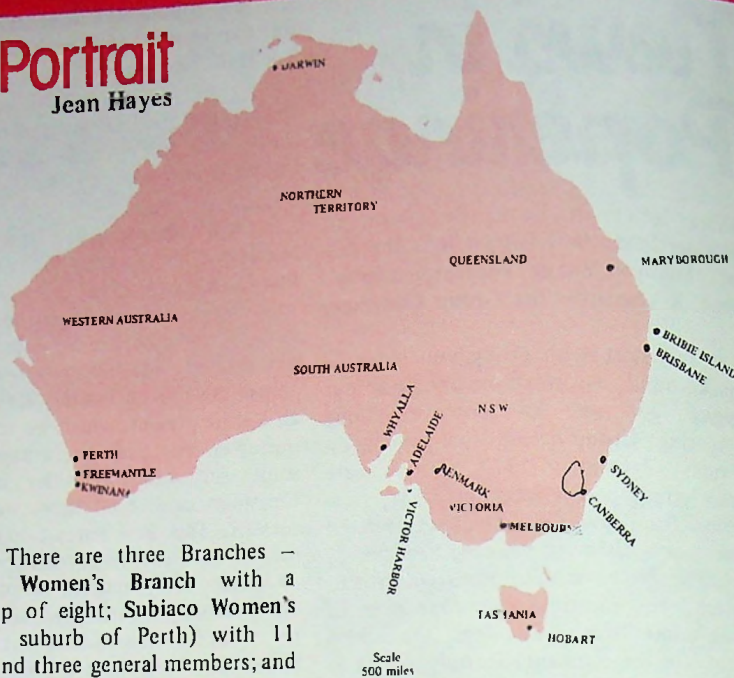
Western Australia

Western Australia is the largest State, and very thinly populated with two thirds of its people concentrated in the capital city

of Perth. There are three Branches — **Fremantle Women's Branch** with a membership of eight; **Subiaco Women's Branch** (a suburb of Perth) with 11 members and three general members; and **Kwinana Joint Branch** (14 miles from Fremantle) with 22 members, one general member and one probationer. There are also 45 general members and six builders. Most members are retired, though there is a sprinkling of younger people, and service includes delivery of bags of sweets to some 6,000 children in the Kwinana Shire on Christmas morning, an opportunity shop, knitting for various organisations and other forms of personal service. General members meet from time to time for a luncheon and fellowship. The climate is described as ideal, though summertime can be very hot.

South Australia

South Australia is the strongest State Toc H-wise, the administration being centred there. There are 14 Branches, 11 of which are in **Adelaide** (the capital) and suburbs. Total membership is 162, with 22 probationers. The other three Branches are in **Renmark**, 165 miles from Adelaide in the heart of the fruit-growing area (grapes, peaches, apricots, pears, citrus fruit etc) and irrigated by the River Murray and noted for its hot summers, often up to 45C. The jobs are mainly personal service of various kinds as the majority of members are retired. **Victor Harbor**, some distance down the coast from Adelaide, involves itself very much in local affairs and, with a more physically active membership, undertakes more energetic jobs, particularly with the Toc H Campsite adjacent to the town. **Whyalla**, the site of the big shipbuilding yards, is a heavily industrial area. Here again, the age of members limits the extent of service.



The Branches centred in and around Adelaide are close enough to each other to combine in various undertakings. There are quite a few younger members and the quality of service given is excellent. A badge day is held annually to raise funds for Toc H projects. This year marked the completion of 50 years of sponsored camps, and all accommodation has been upgraded. A Projects Committee organises a number of projects each year. Last year there were five, and included two discos for the handicapped and one camp for severely disabled children for four days. These 'projects' are designed to involve non-members of Toc H, and it is hoped eventually to make the activities financially independent.

A District Branch has been formed to provide an opportunity for members from small Branches, general members and husbands and wives of members in one-sex Branches to join in Toc H activities together. It also provides a suitable venue for introducing new people to Toc H. Other service includes film shows, drives, entertainments, and parties for aged folk, work at the Self-help centre for disabled, and whatever else crops up. A market is held once a year for funds and cards are sold at the Charity Gift Card Shop. All these take time and organising, not to mention sheer hard 'yakka'.

Pulteney Grammar School has had a long relationship with Toc H through its use of the Camp. With this in mind, an award will be made to the Senior Student

who follows Toc H ideals within the school – the spirit of service, fellowship, fairmindedness and Christianity.

Queensland

Queensland. The tropical State of Gold Coast holidays of sun and surf; the Great Barrier Reef and tropical islands – tropical fruit, spices, nuts, etc, sugar cane, not to mention the wool, beef and grain areas. Of the seven Branches, six are in and around Brisbane, the State capital, and combine frequently for Church parades, jobs and other get-togethers. The exception, Bribie Island, is only about 40 miles from Brisbane and so is not really isolated. All Branches have shared in an outing to Toowoomba for the Carnival of Flowers – your imagination can supply some details here – taking children from Homes and Hospitals to the Queensland Exhibition (something like an Agricultural Show) and entertaining them with rides, sample bags and drinks, and various functions at Congeau House on Bribie Island, which provides accommodation for various community groups, such as a Women's Shelter, the Salvation Army, Pensioner Groups and Brownies. This is administered by a Projects Committee, which is also responsible for fund-raising.

Bribie Island Branch is very active, with 46 members. Their service includes a monthly 'When Old Friends Meet' and a social afternoon for handicapped and housebound people, who are transported to and from the get-together. They also raised \$1,000 towards a minibus to transport people needing treatment at Brisbane hospitals.

St Paul's School Branch consists of senior students, the membership being 27. The boys join in all Area activities and have several projects of their own, including their 'Tape Of Care and Happiness' wherein they tape personal items, birthday greetings, sympathy messages and favourite tunes to be played over the intercom of Eventide homes. Boys leaving the school are usually absorbed into other Branches.

Membership of the other Branches, Brisbane, Brisbane Women's, Northern Suburbs Group, and Tingalpa, is for the most part older people, with the consequent limitation of active service, but nevertheless their influence is felt. One job that is often overlooked, carried out by Brisbane Women's Branch, is writing letters and doing personal mending at an Eventide Home.

1985 has been a year of milestones in Toc H. While we in Britain have been celebrating the 70th year since the opening of Talbot House, Poperinge, Toc H in other parts of the world has been celebrating 60 years of active life. As well as in South Africa, featured in previous issues, 1985 has been the Diamond Jubilee of Toc H in Australia and New Zealand. This issue focusses on

Victoria

Victoria has three Branches – Mitcham, Camberwell and Essendon (all suburbs of Melbourne) as well as General Members and contacts, but all members are in the older age bracket. The major activities operate through the Area Office in Melbourne, the two primary ones being the Children's Holiday Camp at Point Lonsdale (near the entrance to Port Philip Bay, which is just south of Melbourne) and the making of component parts and installations of emergency alarms carried out by Mitcham Branch. Essendon Branch runs a Boys' Club which meets each week, and is augmented by some weekend hiking or camping activities. Camberwell concentrate mainly on handicrafts and dressing of dolls for the Brotherhood of St Lawrence.

Tasmania

Tasmania is the smallest State and frequently left off the map altogether. It is a mountainous island with hundreds of highland lakes and a huge Hydro-Electric scheme, and was recently the storm centre of the Franklin Dam controversy. Winters can be very cold, reaching several degrees below zero in June and July, but the countryside generally is very reminiscent of England. There are two Branches with a membership of 26 altogether. Wynward, in the North West, consists of older folk and concentrates on local community service. Hobart is not much better off age-wise, their main job being the staffing of a monthly night club for intellectually and physically handicapped people. Other jobs are mainly individual services of various kinds, including providing music for singsongs at nearly all the Eventide and nursing homes in the city area. A lunch club has been formed which meets quarterly and attracts ex-members, general members, and others who are interested but do not wish to become full-time members.

New South Wales

New South Wales relinquished area status several years ago. There is one surviving Branch, Sydney Women, of six members, all of whom are retired. Distance is a drawback, the Secretary travelling 60 miles, the Treasurer over 50 miles, and others ten to 20 miles to get to meetings.

Australia, with a feature on Maryborough, Queensland, a report of the Jubilee Celebrations in Canberra, and a full 'state of the nation' report on Toc H life today. We hope to do likewise with New Zealand in a future issue.

We send our warmest congratulations and good wishes to the whole family 'down under'.

The Branch has kept together for the purpose of carrying out a service at a home for Blind women.

Canberra A C T

Canberra A C T. While geographically part of New South Wales, as the centre of Federal Government, the Australian Capital Territory is not considered a part of the State, but a territory in its own right. Not only the centre of Government, it contains the Houses of Parliament, the High Court, the National Gallery, the National Library, the Embassies, the Mint, National Stadium and the Australian Institute of Sport. There is one Branch of 12 members, one probationer and two general members, and jobs include installation and maintenance of emergency alarm systems and general community-service.

The 60th Birthday

In 1985, Toc H in Australia celebrates its 60th birthday, and the main celebrations were hosted by the Canberra Branch in May. Over 70 members from Interstate attended and the Patron, His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephen and Lady Stephen attended the Thanksgiving and Re-dedication Service, and also the Jubilee Dinner which brought together 110 members. During the evening the history of Toc H in Australia, 'The First 60 Years', by Leila Altschwager, was launched by the outgoing President of Toc H, the Hon Sir Condor Laucke KCMG.

In December 1985 the World Chain of Light will originate from Maryborough in Queensland, Tubby's birthplace.

Each two years a National workshop or Conference is hosted by the various States. Because of the concession air fare requirements, these usually last a week although most of the serious sessions are held over the weekend. This is a time of great fellowship, exchanges of news and views, the annual general meeting of the Australian Council, discussions of Toc H subjects and plans etc.

It is easy to be pessimistic about the future, but it is obvious that there is a real need for Toc H principles these days, so somehow, some way, we MUST survive because of that need.

Happy Birthday Australasia

continued

The 60th Birthday Helen Benbow

'How about coming for the weekend to the Toc H Festival in Moscow?' 'Don't be so absurd, it's 2,000 miles away.' Quite so, and yet Bill Brown left his home in Perth, W Australia, on a Tuesday morning last May and travelled by coach continuously until he arrived at Canberra on Thursday evening (2,700 miles) to join in the celebrations for 60 years of Toc H in Australia. Other members from Queensland travelled 800 miles in two minibuses, some came by air, while I did a mere 780 miles by car from Adelaide! Some 90 members from all States joined in the Jubilee festivities, staying in a motel on the outskirts of Canberra. The Governor General, Patron of Toc H Australia, and Lady Stephen attended the dinner at the University, and they were also present at the service next day at St Andrew's Church.

Ted Geach of Sydney, who became a member at 16, 60 years ago, when Tubby and Pat Leonard first started Toc H here, came to the celebrations and spoke to good effect during the weekend. Mary

Shaw of Adelaide was there, one of the half dozen Australians who came to England for the 21st Birthday Festival in 1936. That was my first meeting with them, when we met to draw up the first constitution for the League of Women Helpers in Australia; and here was I nearly 50 years later, making my fourth visit and joining in giving thanks for the faith, friendship and fun that had characterised Toc H for so long.

Our first session, under the good chairmanship of Tony Reade, was a nostalgic one — old photos thrown on the screen, old Toc H memories revived, old stories told. Next day the dinner, and a well deserved presentation made to Leila Altschwager (nee Chapman) who for so many years has held together, through the Council and the magazine 'The Link', the membership throughout the country. To mark the Jubilee Leila had undertaken the mammoth task of writing a book 'Toc H Australia 1925-1985, the first 60 years' and this was well received.

Following the service on Sunday, which included the Ceremony of Light, Toc H prayers and a fine thought-provoking sermon, Toc H Canberra provided a barbeque. Then came the serious part — a session on 'Towards 2,000', led by the Area Commissioner. The need for spreading a right conception of Toc H and getting more publicity was stressed, together with the writing of new, up-to-date literature, but the need for the vital personal follow-up is something it is hoped will be taken up in all States among young people.

The Australian Council met next day and others explored Canberra. This extraordinary and beautiful city has splendid and vast public buildings with even vaster spaces in between and round about, millions of planted trees, a man-made immense lake and great wide highways.

Finally, the last farewells were paid and Bill went back his 2,700 miles. Well done, Toc H Australia. How thankful I am to have worked with you a little and to have had you as my friends.

Focus on Maryborough Bill Rendall



Photo: Bill Rendall

The house where Tubby was born.

The 1985 World Chain of Light starts at Maryborough, Queensland, Australia, where Tubby Clayton was born on 12 December 1885. Maryborough had its beginning in August 1847. It was a centre for the reception of wool, hides and tallow from the sheep properties in the southern and central Burnett areas, 130 to 150 miles to the west. These products were shipped to Brisbane by sailing vessels via the Mary River on which the settlement was established.

Within a few years, hundreds of immigrants came from the British Isles, the Scandinavian countries and Germany. They engaged in industrial pursuits in the township and in farming, grazing and dairying in the district. Sawmills and brickworks were built.

On 23 March 1861, the township was declared a municipality and proclaimed a city on 7 February 1905. Today, the population is in excess of 23,000 and there is a regional population of 140,000.

Maryborough is principally an industrial city and is regarded as the capital of the Wide Bay area which extends more than 320 kilometres to the west. It has a heavy engineering works (established in 1868) which built warships in World War Two, mining machinery after gold was discovered at Gympie in 1867, railway

We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In September

John T Anderson (Cromer), E E 'Bill' Barton (Sevenoaks), Harry O Besley (Cefn Coed), Walter J Hillier (Shirehampton), Robert H Kelcey (Bakewell), Florence L Marsden (Rushden Afternoon), Robert J Slater (Broadway)

In October

Eva M Daniel (Mablethorpe & Sutton-on-Sea), Alfred Taylor (Corby)

Sarah Harrington, former member at St Austell, died in June, aged 85. Desmond Caddy tells us that she was a widely known and much respected lady of great integrity, courtesy and enthusiasm. She was a loyal and invaluable member and filled many roles in the Branch.

Ray Cross writes of 'Ron' Newman. 'He had been the Padre of Old Coulsdon Branch until its closure in 1980 following which he transferred to the Springfield District Branch. He had retired at the end of 1983 from his Ministry at Old Coulsdon Congregational Church after 29 years of faithful and untiring service which extended to fields far beyond his Church.

'I think that the affection in which he was so greatly held can best be appreciated when I say that at his funeral service the Church was packed to capacity, over 300 people being present.'

James 'Ted' Hamilton, who died suddenly in August, had been a member for 34 years, first at Oswestry and later as a founder member of Pant Joint Branch. Pant Joint Branch owed its existence largely to his enthusiasm. He was a kindly and thoughtful man with a tremendous dedication to the Movement. His loss will be keenly felt.

Norman England, who died in August, joined Toc H 20 years ago when he retired in Taunton. Prior to his retirement he was an area chief surveyor for the NCB and much involved in the development of the Selby coalfields.

Fred Derry who died in September was a member at Northampton until 1971, since when he was a welcome attendee at Abingdon (M) Branch.

Jim Jones tells us that 'Bob Slater was a member of long standing and had held the offices of chairman and jobmaster for some years and his loss to the village will be felt over a wide spectrum. We will remember him as a true friend who was always willing and ready to help anyone in need, in the name of Toc H'.

Editor's Note:

Due to pressure of space, the Editor usually has to reduce the length of tributes sent in – and will continue to do so unless the author specifically requests 'All or nothing'!

Edwin Harrison writes that 'despite the awesome burden of Parkinson's disease in recent years, Bob Kelcey continued to honour his rota attendance at the local Newholme hospital with strict regularity, and with astonishing vigour and loving devotion to patients and staff... His response to the needs of the very old, and the very young will long be remembered by all who were blessed in his shining good fellowship'.

'Bill Barton joined Sevenoaks from Seal Branch in 1983. Although severely disabled with Parkinson's disease, he joined in enthusiastically with all activities of the Branch and despite considerable setbacks, particularly in the last year of his life, was always a smiling and cheerful example to us all. It is a pity that his invalid car will no longer be a part of Sevenoaks and his passing is a great loss to the Branch and the Movement', writes Michael Holiday.

Jack Twiss writes that 'Jack Anderson will be greatly missed. He was a staunch member of long standing. Edith his widow especially asked that in place of flowers mourners could make donations to Cromer Toc H. It is hoped to spend the donation on a suitable form of memorial to Jack, and the beneficiary will be our new Toc H Centre at Mundesley House, Mundesley'.

We give thanks for their lives

steam locomotives, electric carriages and electric locomotives for the Queensland Government and sugar mills for Queensland and overseas.

The city has a number of smaller engineering works, two large sawmills, several furniture making establishments, brickworks and pipeworks.

Sugar cane growing, dairying and general farming are carried on in the surrounding district. Maryborough is on the Mary River, 25 miles from its mouth. It is serviced by planes, trains and motor coaches several times daily from the north and south (to Brisbane, 167 miles

away). It has some of the finest colonial homes and buildings dating back 120 years. Maryborough is regarded as having a most equable climate. Summer temperatures range from 17.4 to 29.8 celsius and winter 7.8 to 21.2 celsius. The annual rainfall averages 30 inches. Twenty two miles to the north east, on the coast, is the City of Hervey Bay, the playground of the region and, in fact, of Australia. Across the strait from Hervey Bay city is Fraser Island, the largest sand island in the world – the tourist's mecca.

The Girl Guide 'Toc H Hall' in Maryborough, where the 1985 World Chain of Light starts.



Photo: Roy Nieper

Design a Poster Competition

Thank you to those who submitted entries. The winning entry was from Arend Hoogervorst, from Toc H South Africa, and at his request the prize is being donated to the Friends of the Old House.

Thank You

All Hallows by the Tower would like to thank everyone who supported the recent Grand Draw and for other contributions we have received towards the repair of the Pepys Tower.

There is still a long way to go and we look forward to further offers of help towards meeting our target.

The lucky prize winners were:

- 1st Mr Bob West, Streatham Hill
- 2nd Mr Doug Smith, Camden
- 3rd Mrs Jeannie Richardson, Hackney

Open Forum

(Owing to lack of space, some letters have been held over – Ed)

Christ the Jester

Of recent years Christ has become Christ the Music-maker and Christ the Dancer, and I now see (p8 September issue) that He has become Christ the Jester.

Since none of these attributes seems to be much dwelt upon in the original biographies and accounts in the New Testament these fancies appear to give much weight to the suggestion that man prefers to create his gods in his own image.

R L Evans
Whetstone

God and Mammon

In the course of my duties in the Colonial Service I was called upon to look into the question of the salary of newly-recruited officers of a Department. I found that they were restricted to bare subsistence. Each was given a Government loan to buy a car, which was necessary for their work, the loan to be repaid during his first three years of service. To do this he virtually mortgaged one year's salary. I proposed that the basic starting pay of the Department should be raised and that all the other members of the Department should have salary raises of the same amount. The Commissioner accepted my

findings but not my proposal. Instead he put up to the Government that all officers' pay should be raised by a certain percentage, the result being that the most junior officers would receive barely enough to cover their needs, while the senior officers, especially the most high-ranking, would receive considerably more than enough. This seems to be the prevailing practice in our modern wage settlements, which so keenly affect the country's economy.

When I was a Prison welfare officer, I found many prisoners who had got into debt through hire purchase, being unable to pay the instalments and even having sold the hire purchase items before they had paid for them. They had then committed crimes in desperation to raise the money to rescue themselves from such predicament.

When reading the works of the Old Testament prophets inveighing against the ungodliness of their generation, one may wonder why so few voices are raised against this materialism and acquisitiveness which preponderate today. To those who hitherto have been satisfied with their lot circulars and advertisements arrive and appear before them to entice them to covet.

There is now a wide modern tendency for banks and many other

concerns to entice individuals to borrow money on easy (?) repayment terms. Such loans to fund starting or expanding business are doubtless necessary, but their value can be doubted if they are purely to purchase luxuries. May God help us all not to be led into temptation!

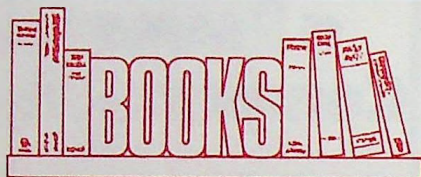
In this materialistic age it seems that people are misinterpreting the Christian precept to set their affections on things above as being 'things above their means'. It can be no surprise that crime is ever increasing. One cannot serve God and Mammon.

Charles Potts
Lymington

Top Salaries

What prompted me to write the letter in November 'Point Three' was seeing within a few days of each other (1) an advertisement in the 'Guardian' or similar daily newspaper for a Top H Director listing vision, imagination, faith, leadership and inspiration as the qualities required and (2) the July 'Point Three' advertisement for a General Secretary requiring the same qualities. Surely both were seeking the same person?

In the light of this, your September Editorial comments on the



EXPLAINING THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND – A series of six pamphlets

We examined the following: No 5 (Christening your Baby), No 6 (Getting Married in Church), and No 7 (Funerals).

The other three are 'The Anglican Church', 'The Church in Action', 'What happens in Church'.

These are basic information leaflets explaining the Church's teaching on the subjects. They are clearly and concisely written and will be especially helpful to those who are not very knowledgeable about the subjects. It would be appropriate to place them on bookstalls inside churches and at locations where they would be available to chance visitors. The leaflets do not contain arguments to convince people of the claims of Christianity, nor of those of the Anglican Church. Such would be of

Forthcoming Events

December 6/8	CEC Residential Weekend	Alison House
11/12	World Chain of Light – commencing	Maryborough, Queensland, Australia, and to be observed at 9pm, local time
	Also Vigil at	Cuddesdon House
14	North West and North Wales Regional Council	
14	Tubby Clayton Centenary Service, followed by Carol Service,	All Hallows Church, London. Details and tickets from Miss C M Pring, 39 Princes Plain, Bromley, Kent BR2 8LH
January 18	SW Regional Executive,	Wellington
25	W Mids and S Wales Regional Council,	Gloucester
February 1	CEC meeting.	Newark Street, London
15	North Wales & North West Regional Council	

Open

Enquiries concerning 'Open' events may be sent to the Editor who will forward them to the local organiser.

doubtful effectiveness in a small document. However, in all cases, readers are urged to see the local clergy for further information when contemplating marriage or the christening of the baby. Such publications can be very valuable in dispelling widespread ignorance about the Anglican Church's attitude to such important steps in human life and this outreach exercise is to be commended.

The leaflet on 'Funerals' is particularly helpful.

Anne and Wilf Fletcher

These pamphlets are published by CIO Publishing, price 2p each. They are available from Church House Bookshop, Great Smith Street, London SW1 or branches of SPCK and Mowbrays.

Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

real work being done at the grass roots – 'few worthwhile developments in Toc H ever come from the top down' – make us think of the reality and wonder how much influence these top people can expect to wield.

Richard Heyes
Bedford

Toc H comes first

I am somewhat reluctant to write to you once again but I feel that the comments made by Fred Wilkins (Point Three, September) cannot go unchallenged.

While it is quite true that co-operation with other organisations is necessary and indeed sometimes essential in order to meet the needs of the local community, this does NOT mean that Toc H has to become a financial life support machine for those organisations. I therefore fully support the stance made by Pat Turner in this matter.

The remarks which Fred Wilkins makes about staff are almost a carbon copy of those he made in his letter which was printed in the May 1983 issue of Point Three. The reason that staff cannot visit Branches more regularly is that there are so very few of them. Why? Lack of finance for one thing and therefore

raising money for other organisations does nothing to alleviate the situation. Of course money alone will not revitalise the Movement as he correctly states but it would provide a powerful springboard for us to do many things which we cannot do at the present time. Most of the staff I know are constantly trying out new ideas and ways of increasing the membership and working long hours in the process.

John R Morgan
Ruislip

The Old House

I was appalled to hear that the CEC recommends to the Central Council that we should not retain our financial support to Talbot House. Whoever thought up that crazy idea has obviously never visited the Old House and enjoyed the wonderful friendship that abounds there, then sat quietly in the Upper Room and experienced that atmosphere that seems to wrap itself around one. It is the very heart of Toc H. Take that away, and the whole Movement will die.

Talbot House must be maintained whatever the cost.

Joan Clarke
Glen Parva

'On the move'

For over three decades we have been treading the metal staircase to our 'room', our 'house', call it what you will. The carpets are worn, the building has been crumbling, vandals have attacked it. But what is a loose tile, here or there, when the spirit of companionship is there never to be forgotten by those who have been privileged to enter the four walls? There have been happy times, there have been sad, but above all there has been the friendship that comes over every time we meet.

It is falling silent now, awaiting the arrival of the bulldozer, for it is to be demolished to make way for urban development. Going, but not forgotten, the end of an era.

We have another room to go to and continue 'the good thing thus begun'. Another chapter is opening to us, new challenges to face. There is an eager look in the faces of our members. Bricks and mortar alone do not make the place. It is those within the walls that carry the banner high with quiet resolve and determination to succeed.

L H Mallett
Wellingborough



Thurrock 'Griffins' a young Toc H group, were awarded £600 from the Warden Manor Trust. Part of this was spent on a most successful outing to Colchester Zoo with physically handicapped children, followed by a disco.



South Lakeland District Branch raised nearly £240 at a recent coffee morning and bring-and-buy in Morecambe.

Members of Burraton (W) Branch enjoying the sun just before the opening of their mini-market by the Mayoress of Saltash, herself a Branch member.



International Year of Peace

Colin Rudd



1986 is to be the International Year of Peace. In spite of its overly optimistic title – International Year for Peace might have been better – it remains probably the most important International Year there has yet been. Peace is not an optional extra, the icing to go on the cake when we have finally sorted out just who is top dog. That philosophy can only lead, as it always has done, to endless successions of wars ranging from the local to the global; from measuring deaths in hundreds to facing the likelihood of total annihilation. Peace cannot be inflicted on the world in that way, and the best that that can lead to is an armed neutrality maintained by an ever more precarious balance of terror. While that is an undoubted advance on open hostility and warfare it is not peace, and cannot lead to it.

There is, of course, a considerable body of opinion which would argue that we should settle for that. After all, we've lived like that for 40 years, we know what the risks are and what the cost is. Whether we like it or not, the arms business is very big business indeed, providing jobs and much needed wealth, and producing spectacular advances in technology, many of which have spin-offs from which we all benefit. It is true, too, that there is a certain realism in this approach. In our comparatively short history we have not shown ourselves to be particularly peace loving. In common with almost all land living species we have a high awareness of territory, and a powerfully felt need to protect it against intruders. Coupled with that, each society has evolved a way of life which it will defend against all attempts from outside to inflict or impose change. These we have always seen as admirable and morally defensible arguments. Not so admirable, or morally defensible, but nonetheless powerfully present in our make up, is the conviction that we need to establish dominance over the territory of others, and ensure that they conduct their own way of life in a manner which closely reflects our own scales of values. This, we argue, is the only way in which we can hope to achieve security and freedom from threat. That all of this, and much more, is deeply ingrained in us cannot be denied, and it seems clear that it forms the hidden basis for most of the political arrangements that are made anywhere in the world.

Addressed on a global scale the problem seems to be intractable. If that is indeed how we are, then surely armed neutrality is the very best that we can hope for. Now that we have achieved it, to talk of

abandoning it in favour of something which, in political terms cannot even be defined is, at best, irresponsible lunacy. In the face of such arguments, and such sorry truths, the very idea of an International Year of Peace seems laughable.

The problem, however, does not have to be faced on such a huge scale – it can, and must, be broken down into its component parts. Not only in industry and commerce, but in issues like this as well, small is beautiful, for it is less frightening, and can exist within our control, rather than vice versa. In this country a step in this direction has been taken by the Council which has been established to celebrate IYP in suggesting that the year be divided into four parts:

January-March

for Peace and Development

April-June

for Peace and Justice

July-September

for Peace and the Community

October-December

for Peace and Disarmament

It will be seen, of course, that these are themselves major issues with their own proper global ramifications, but all the same they represent an attempt to begin to bring the problem down to size. What has to happen next is for each participating organisation, body and group, even each individual, to stop talking about what 'They' can do – whoever 'They' might be – and to begin to work out what it can do, what I can do.

How often we reflect that the founding fathers of Toc H knew what they were doing in setting out the Four Points as they did! To build bravely, think fairly, love widely and witness humbly will come to mean a growing commitment to peace during this year. There are, no doubt, a great many ways in which we can work out the insights into peace into which our Four Points lead us, but two seem to suggest themselves clearly.

The first is to take each of the themes suggested above and to work out our response and what our action should be in the light of the Four Points. Thus, for example, a Branch programme might return every three weeks to the consideration of Peace and Development, exploring it each time in the light of one of the Four Points. The same process could be repeated with each of the remaining issues of Justice, the Community and Disarmament.

The second way in which the issues could be explored would be to link each of the

IYP Council's themes to one of the Four Points. With *Think Fairly* we could place Peace and Justice; Peace and community sits well with *Love Widely*, and along with *Witness Humbly*, Peace and Disarmament is a challenging issue.

However we choose to address the issues three objectives must be made clear, and I've called them the Three A's.

The first is to deepen Awareness. We must become aware that peace really is not an optional extra, not a pipe dream. We must become aware of all those things in ourselves which work against peace such as poverty, disease, injustice and cruelty, and the effects which they have upon us all, perpetrators and afflicted alike. I need to become aware that, while I may not be able to do anything about President Reagan or Mr Gorbachov I can do something about me, and contribute to the places where I live and work and have my being.

A second 'A' is for Attitude. As awareness deepens so we shall find that we come under increasing pressure from within ourselves to review and change our attitudes so that they take account of our new awareness.

The third 'A' is for Action. With my awareness deepened and my attitudes challenged and changing I must begin to act, for not to do so would be unthinkable.

If the International Year of Peace is not to be just another intellectual exercise, and if it is to bear any fruit and not simply be forgotten, the Three A's, or something like them, are very important. Whatever else IYP does it must not simply fade away or fizzle out, and we must have the courage to embark on the journey to peace.

This Christmas we shall again be celebrating the season of Peace and Goodwill – our aim should be that by this time next year that will be clothed in a little more reality.

Development in Devon

Some readers will already have heard about the exciting work just starting in the South Western Region as a further part of our Development Strategy. Here, Jane and Philip Douch, part and full time members of staff respectively, outline the work they are undertaking from Lindridge House in Kingsteignton, Devon.

In short, our work is designed to involve a new generation in the Movement in the South and East Devon Districts. To this end Toc H has bought Lindridge House, a beautiful old farmhouse between Dartmoor and the coast, to serve as the base for our development work. It is also our home.

We shall be inviting mixed groups of a dozen visitors at a time to come and

spend a few days with us, living together as one large family and sharing the cooking and cleaning as well as a variety of different activities. These will range from service projects and physical work in the grounds to training events and Drama or Quiet Weekends. Wherever possible we shall also ensure that people are living and working alongside others they would normally never even meet. Such mixtures of people will include handicapped and able-bodied, students at private and comprehensive schools, employed and unemployed and people of different cultures. Whatever the grouping, we shall be offering a specific programme relevant to the participants and our own skills with people rather than the services of a housekeeper or warden.

Most of those who come to Lindridge will be invited from South and East Devon, and in order that we can keep in close touch and give them the chance of further involvement with Toc H, Philip will be spending time both at the house and out in the Districts where they live. By maintaining contact with people in this way we hope that many will return to Lindridge or become involved with local Toc H Groups and Branches.

Whilst most of our work will draw on people from the South West, Lindridge is a national Toc H resource, so do keep your eyes on Point Three's Forthcoming Events listings for our occasional open weekends at which people from all parts of the country will be welcome to join others from our own Region.

We are also particularly keen to encourage two types of event for people from outside the South West; firstly, weekends bringing together older and younger generations in Toc H, and secondly, new, experimental project ideas. With small groups of just 12 people, in attractive surroundings and with whatever help we can give you, there couldn't be a better opportunity to risk trying something new.

Go on, do it! You can get in touch with us at Lindridge House, Lindridge Hill, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 3QE. Telephone 0626-65670.

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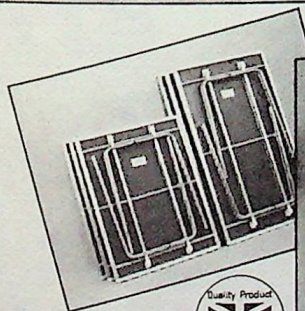
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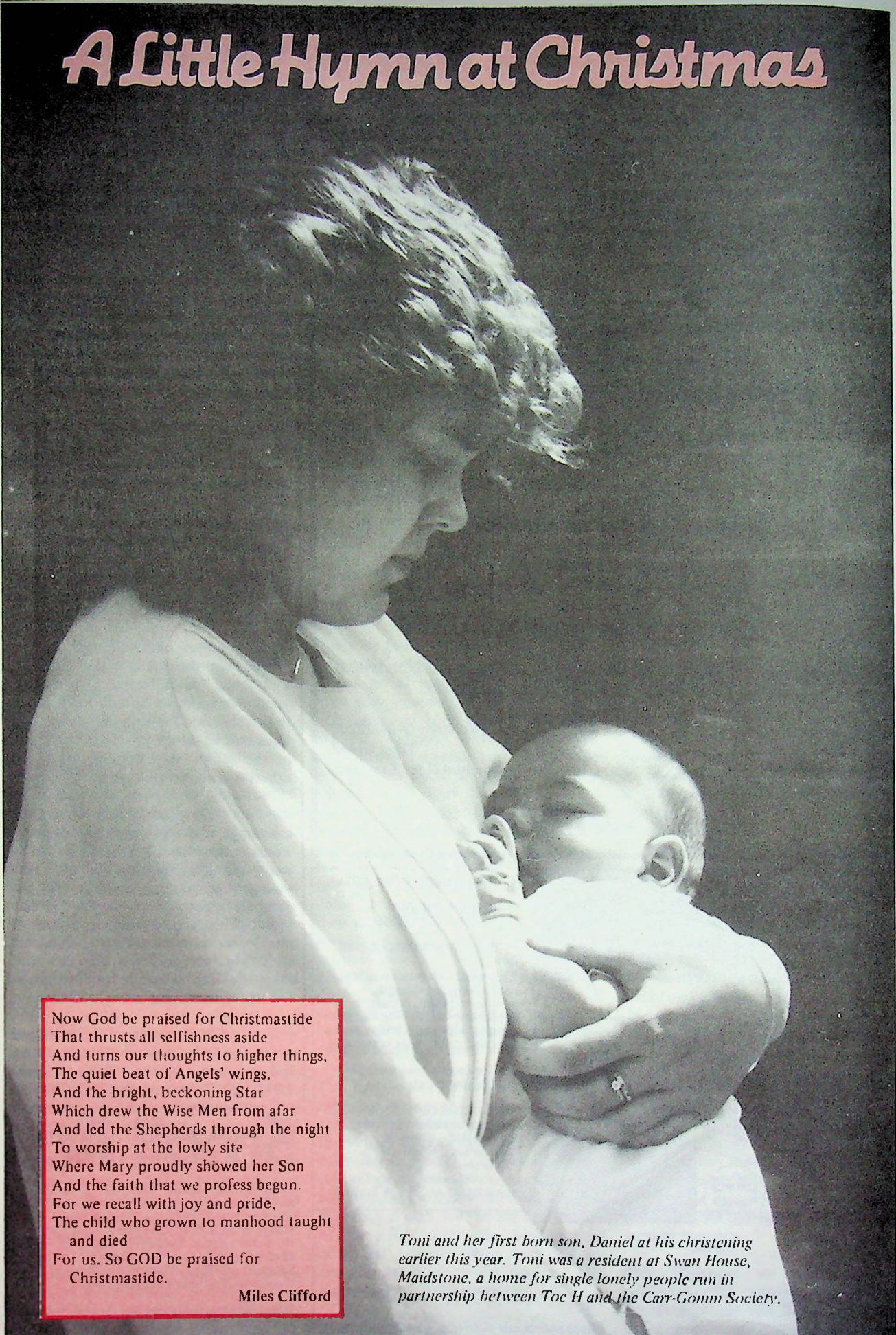
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A Little Hymn at Christmas



Now God be praised for Christmastide
That thrusts all selfishness aside
And turns our thoughts to higher things,
The quiet beat of Angels' wings.
And the bright, beckoning Star
Which drew the Wise Men from afar
And led the Shepherds through the night
To worship at the lowly site
Where Mary proudly showed her Son
And the faith that we profess begun.
For we recall with joy and pride,
The child who grown to manhood taught
and died
For us. So GOD be praised for
Christmastide.

Miles Clifford

Toni and her first born son, Daniel at his christening earlier this year. Toni was a resident at Swan House, Maidstone, a home for single lonely people run in partnership between Toc H and the Carr-Gomm Society.